

"ology" what it may, to visit our Mount Buffalo National Park. Having done so, they will return again and again. No effort should be spared to preserve the native ecology of this wonderful Park. It ranks as an outstanding holiday resort and naturalists' paradise, for no other State has anything like it.

REFERENCES

- Vict. Nat.*, Vol. XX, No. 11, March, 1904, pp. 150/152.
Vict. Nat., Vol. LVI, No. 11, March, 1940, p. 185 ("Bogong Moths").
Vict. Nat., Vol. LX, No. 11, March, 1944, p. 166 (Exhibit).

NATIVE BEES ON MOUNT BUFFALO

With Description of a New Subspecies

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Three Club members, Messrs. H. C. E. Stewart (President), Eyre Swarbreck, and P. Bibby, spent a fortnight from January 19, 1946, at Mount Buffalo; altitude 4,500-5,600 feet. Comparatively few of the native Eucalypts were in bloom, but the party obtained some bees. Most were found in the open alpine meadows, not far from running water. A botanical feature of these treeless expanses at the time of the visit was the predominance of the family *Compositae* in flower. Conspicuous was the orange-coloured Alpine *Podolepis*, *P. acuminata* var. *robusta*. The native bees seemed to have a predilection for these bright inflorescences.

The specimens sent to me proved to be of considerable interest. The most numerous formed a series of males and females of an earth-digging species, *Paracolletes chalybeatus* (Er.). These are about 14 mm. in length, highly-polished, with a black head and thorax, and a slight steely metallic lustre over the abdomen. The species was described from Tasmania in 1842, as *Andrena*, by Erickson, but the glossa of the mouth-parts is definitely wide and blunt, whereas that of *Andrena* is narrow and pointed. It is the type of the genus *Lamprocolletes*, Smith, with a conspicuous pterostigma. The ecology at this altitude is not unlike that of Tasmania in a more southerly latitude.

One small black Furrow-bee—it is only 6.8 mm. in length—proved to be a not quite typical specimen of *Halictus subplebeius*, Ckll., which was described from Mt. Tamborine, Queensland.

The third bee is a leaf-cutter, which is best treated as a new subspecies of *Megachile macularis*, Dalla Torre (*maculata* of Smith). The species is widely spread over the three eastern States of Australia, and is easily known by several small spots of white hair on the mesothorax. The Buffalo specimen lacks these hairy maculae, and the mandibulae are quite differently sculptured. It approaches *M. ignescens*, which however has a red scopa. The Buffalo bee may later be given specific rank, but in the absence of

the male I shall treat it as a new subspecies and append a description of the female:

MEGACHILE MACULARIS SWARBRECKI, subsp. nov.

TYPE: Female—Length, 11 mm., approx. Black.

Head transverse; face with reddish hair fading to pale straw-colour laterally; frons rugoso-punctate, with sparse long reddish hair; clypeus convex, anterior margin crenulate, a polished irregular median line, and large contiguous punctures; the large supraclypeal area with a median impunctate polished surface; vertex closely punctured, with sparse fine black hair; compound eyes large, anterior margins parallel; genae small, with long, loose silvery hair; labrum black; mandibulae exceedingly large, coarsely rugose, shining, with a peculiar sericeous area on the somewhat flattened apex; short antennae obscurely brownish below.

Prothorax with a few long fine black hairs intermingled with the white; tubercles black; mesothorax shining, but closely and coarsely punctured, with a few fine black hairs; scutellum similar; postscutellum with longer white hairs; metethorax with a scale-like sculpture over an area shaped like a Moorish arch; abdominal dorsal segments coarsely punctured, depressed medianly, with a few stiff black hairs; apex with a few appressed ochreous hairs, scanty white hairs not forming distinct bands; ventral segments with a dense white scopa.

Legs black, with rather dense fringes of white hair; tarsi black; claws blackish-brown; hind calcar blackish; tegulae blackish, closely punctured, with a large tuft of silvery hair just beneath them; wings smoky; nervures blackish-brown; cells; radial more suffused; pterostigma inconspicuous; hamuli seventeen.

LOCALITY: Mount Buffalo, Victoria, January, 1946, Eyre Swarbreck. Type in the collection of the author.

ALLIES: *M. macularis*, which has white spots on the mesothorax; *M. ignescens*, which has a red scopa.

On flowers of *Podolepis acuminata*, R. Br., var. *robusta* (Maiden et Betche) Willis.

BLUE WREN NESTING ON THE GROUND

While walking along a track in the Waterworks Reserve, Hobart (Tasmania), on November 5, 1945, I observed a female Blue Wren with a feather in her beak fly to a low dead shrub. After resting there for a few moments she flew to the ground a short distance away.

Upon observing the bird depart I investigated and found the nest, which was built right on the ground at the foot of a small low bush about 12 inches high. There was a little grass growing through and about the bush, which was only five or six yards from the track. The dome-shaped grass nest with its side entrance was not easily located, in spite of the fact that the bird was seen to alight in the vicinity. So far as could be seen without touching the nest, only feathers had been used to line it.

While the female bird was seen to visit the nest on two occasions that afternoon, the male was not observed. On each occasion the approach to the nest was the same, the bird alighting on the dead shrub before flying to the ground near the nest.

Several pairs of these lovely birds were seen in this locality, and four pairs were noted together in the open near the Reservoir.

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